# our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Winter 1986

See special appeal (center-spread)

# Animal Rescue League of Boston

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**Red Acre Farm**
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**New England Federation of Humane Societies**
Boston, MA

**American Humane Association**
Denver, Colorado

**World Society for the Protection of Animals**
Boston, MA (Regional Office)

## Our Fourfooted Friends

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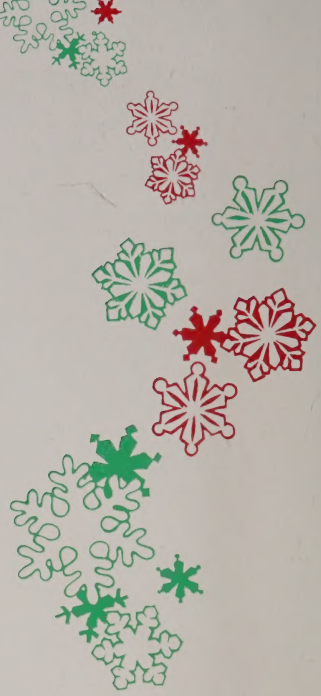

**Winter 1986**
**Volume 84, No. 4**

**COVER:**

*Cover photo by Arthur Pollock:* ***Courtesy of Boston Herald***

*League staff member Chris O'Connor holds one of the many lovable pets that are seeking new homes.*

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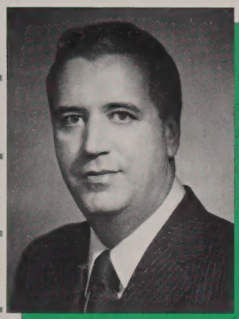


# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR THE ANIMALS

From time to time, we report to you on various pieces of legislation that are of particular interest to us for the welfare of animals. We often urge your support and cooperation in the passage of such laws. Progress on this score can be slow and even discouraging at times. Thus, it is especially gratifying when we are able to report some success.

Such a case in point is the recent passage by the Massachusetts Legislature of Senate bill 1102. This bill was introduced by Senator Costello on behalf of the Animal Rescue League of Boston to further regulate and protect wild and exotic animals kept in captivity. In particular, this new law prohibits the exhibition of any wild animal for the purpose of attracting trade to any place of amusement, recreation or entertainment. It does not, however, restrict the display of wild animals for educational reasons, such as a zoo, or in regard to theatrical presentations or circuses. It is intended to eliminate the exploitation of wild animals at such places as night clubs and similar types of activities.

Our Law Enforcement officers have seen an increasing problem in recent years with such things as "Safari Nights" and poorly designed and managed wild animal exhibits at stores and shopping malls.

For example, a local night club exhibited an elephant, tiger, six monkeys, a baboon and four tropical birds as part of a "Safari Night" promotion. The patrons tormented, taunted and teased the animals each night. Obviously exotic, wild animals of this sort cannot be exhibited safely or humanely under these conditions when they are not in a natural, proper and humane environment. The unpredictable and potentially dangerous behavior of these animals also presents a public safety hazard when such transient housing conditions exist.

In other cases, outdoor exhibits of wild animals were set up on a temporary basis with pens that were overcrowded; the animals in them were incompatible and there was no protection from the weather.

I would like to extend our special thanks and appreciation to all our members and friends who took the time and effort to join with us last Spring by writing to their legislators in support of the passage of this new law. It is especially gratifying to tell you that this legislation becomes law on January 7, 1987.

My very best Holiday wishes to everyone for their many kindnesses and loyal support.

Arthur G. Slade
*President*

# A Question of Responsibility:

## Animal Cruelty in Halifax

This past Fall brought the successful legal conclusion of a saga of animal—and human—suffering that first came to light a year earlier on October 1, 1985, the day after hurricane Gloria passed through New England.

Checking his neighborhood to see if anyone needed help in the aftermath of the storm, Halifax dog officer Alan Andrews noticed utility lines down at a house in which he knew an elderly woman was living. After getting no response to his knocks, he summoned the Halifax police who, on arrival, found several undernourished dogs in the yard, trash, flies and other insects all around the house, and most windows boarded up. When the elderly woman finally appeared at an upstairs window, one of the officers climbed a ladder to speak with her, but what he saw inside caused him to place an emergency phone call to the Animal Rescue League of Boston for assistance.

On their arrival, League agents found 28 dogs and one cat living in the boarded up ranch-style house. "Removing the dogs was quite a

task," recalls League investigator Carol McCarthy. "It was difficult to even open the front door because the mounds of trash and feces piled against the door were as high as three feet in places. Once through the door, it was pitch black and the smell was overpowering. Rats, some of them difficult to distinguish from the puppies, roamed about the house.

"In the midst of all this was the elderly woman, with open sores on her face, and her face and body covered with lice, flies and other insects," McCarthy states. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment and all 28 dogs and one cat were rounded up and taken in protective custody to the League's shelter in Boston where they received medical care and proper food, water and shelter. "The animals were covered with feces and urine, many were sick, and all were very frightened. One tiny puppy was hiding so far under mounds of garbage that she was almost missed by the rescue workers," McCarthy recalls.

Investigation disclosed that the house was owned by the woman's 39-year-old daughter, Ann Williams, who had been living in a trailer parked in the driveway. The dogs were licensed to Williams who, as legal owner, was responsible for their welfare.

The Halifax Board of Health condemned the house as a health emergency and it was burned to the ground October 6, 1985. League Law Enforcement officers charged the daughter with cruelty to animals, after veterinary examination showed that all of the animals were extremely thin, suffering from skin problems and hair loss, and in serious need of medical attention. The case was also the first use of a 1984 amendment to the cruelty to animals law that requires owners to provide a sanitary environment for their animals. These animals were forced to live in the most filthy environment he had ever seen, according to former League investigator Alan Borgal. "Anywhere you went in that house, the animals could not lie down and be out of their own waste or rubbish," he said.

On February 6, 1986, Ann Williams was tried and found guilty of cruelty to animals for failure to provide proper food, drink, shelter or a sanitary environment for the animals, but she appealed the finding. This past September, a jury of five men and one woman deliberated less than an hour before returning a guilty verdict and upholding the original sentence. Ann Williams was put on two years probation, and ordered to undergo counseling, to pay reimbursement in the amount of $6,000 for the care of the animals, and to have no association whatsoever with animals throughout the term of her probation.

*Dogs were removed and taken to the League clinic for treatment.*

*Through this second-story window, authorities viewed deplorable conditions inside.*

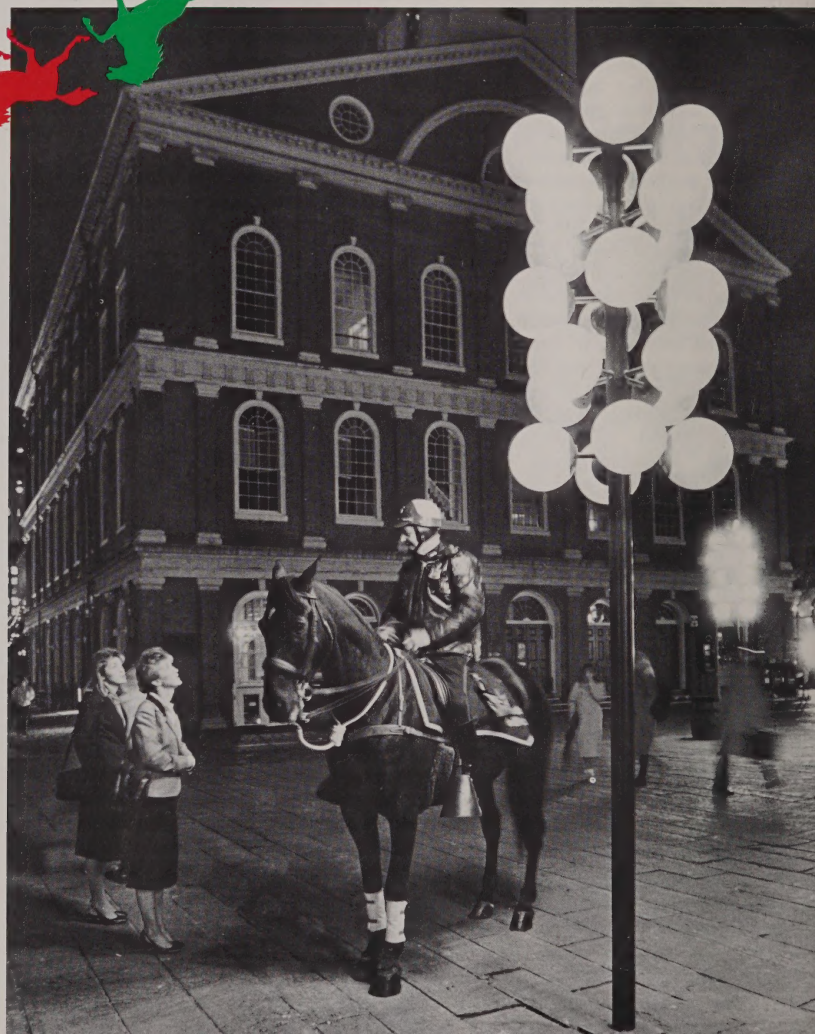
# Boston Police Mounts

## Number One in the Gallup Poll

Each year during the holiday season the League salutes the working horses of Boston by hosting its annual Christmas Dinner for Horses, a tradition that began in 1913 when the city's working horse population numbered in the thousands.

Of the fraction of that number seen on today's city streets, perhaps none is as well known and widely respected as the impressive creatures who inspire respect for the law as members of the area's mounted police units.

Typical of this elite group is Mounted Police Officer Jack Dillon's horse, "Poseidon," a ten-year veteran of the Boston Mounted Police Unit who patrols the Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall area every evening from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. "Poseidon," who is named for the mythical Greek god of horses and the sea, is a large solid black horse, with a white star on his forehead, who stands 17.1 hands high (a "hand" equals four inches).



*Poseidon greets visitors to Boston's Quincy Market.*

*When Officer Dillon isn't on duty with Poseidon (left), he breeds horses on his Millis farm (above).*

The League will host its Christmas Dinner for the Horses this year on December 19, with the League Santa delivering horse feed, carrots, and warm blankets to stables throughout the area. Highlight of the day will be Santa's visit to Poseidon and his fellow police horses who will gather at Quincy Market.

He is the result of a cross between a Percheron and a Thoroughbred intended to produce large bones and superior athletic ability, according to Officer Dillon, who spends his off-duty hours breeding horses on his 13-acre farm in Millis. Despite Poseidon's awe-inspiring appearance, "he has a super personality and just loves people," says Officer Dillon. "He is also a professional beggar," he laughs, and the sight of Poseidon reaching his front leg out to passersby to attract attention, and hopefully handouts, is a common one at Quincy Market.

The squad of Boston Police horses, which currently numbers thirty-five, is kept when off duty at stables located in the Parks Department yard at Franklin Park. They include quarterhorses, Morgans, and standard breeds, all geldings who stand at least 15.2 hands or larger. They are all solid in color to achieve uniformity in appearance. "Size, looks and good personality are the criteria in selecting a good police horse," Officer Dillon explains.

Poseidon was recruited to the force ten years ago by his partner, who recalls: "The horse had been owned by a friend's son who went away to veterinary school." The new equine recruits undergo a thirty-day trial period. "If the horse has any secrets, the flaws will usually come out then," the police officer notes.

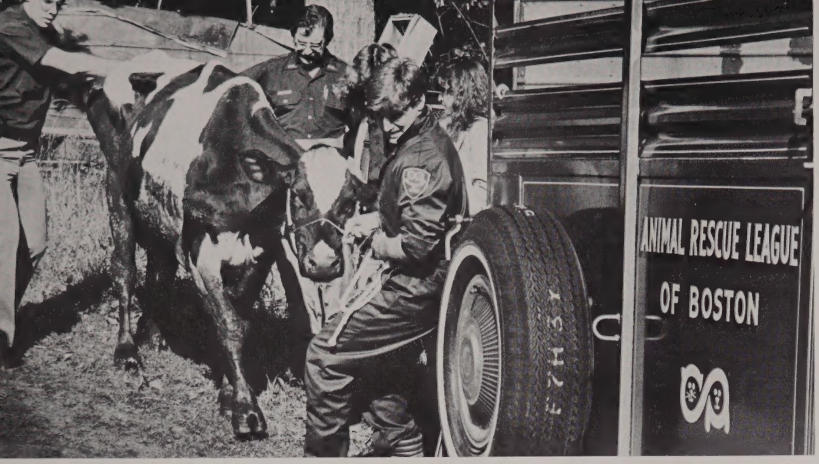
High visibility is a major goal of the Boston Mounted Police Unit whose duties include patrol, traffic and parking control, responding to radio calls and crowd control at demonstrations, parades, ball games and city-wide celebrations like the recent Boston Red Sox appreciation party at City Hall Plaza where Poseidon was among those on hand to restrain over-enthusiastic fans.

The horses undergo extensive training before going on active duty, including lessons in dressage technique. They are taught, for example, a leg yield technique which involves responding to pressure from the right or left leg by moving either forward or backward into a crowd, forcing it gently but firmly to yield. Fireworks, sirens, and amplifiers are used at training sessions to accustom the horses to sudden noises, and role-playing sessions include simulated automobile tagging, and having someone pretend to rush up from behind the horse to attack its rider.

Officer Dillon has been with the Boston Police Department for more than twenty-five years, seventeen of them with the Mounted Police Unit. Before Poseidon and he joined forces in 1976—the year that Quincy Market opened—his mount was Shotgun, who has since retired. He and Shotgun were assigned to South Boston High School during the city's school bussing crisis in the early 70's.

A member of the Massachusetts Breeders Association and a joint huntmaster at the Tanheath Hunt Club in Franklin, Officer Dillon's affinity for horses dates back to the age of seven when he can recall "sneaking down the street from my house in Jamaica Plain to hang around, and help out if they'd let me, at the Wright Stables, which is Arbey's today." After graduating from the Police Academy, he was a patrolman in Roxbury for ten years before getting the opportunity to join the mounted unit. He currently has eight horses on his Millis farm, including some jumpers and a yearling which he hopes to race someday. He also has four children, the youngest of whom, Ed, is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a degree in animal sciences who spent the summer in Ireland and now plans to import Irish horses to the family's farm.

When the day comes that Poseidon must retire, he has this bucolic setting to look forward to with plenty of other horses for company. But that day is not likely to come very soon for this energetic 18-year-old, according to Officer Dillon. "Police horses are like fine wine—they just improve with age."




For the past six months, the League has been involved in one of the most unusual, and widely publicized, animal cruelty investigations in its history. "Normally, such cases are not reported in this magazine until they are concluded in court, but due to the unique nature of this ongoing situation, we would like to share the events of the past six months with our members at this time," according to Arthur G. Slade, League president.

# WILD ANIMALS TAKEN INT

The story began on June 25 when League investigators, armed with a search warrant, visited an animal farm in Essex, Massachusetts in response to complaints received about physical conditions at the 15-acre spread where owner Brian Watson maintained a variety of exotic and domestic animals which he rented out for use in promotions, fairs, parades and other special events. "At that time we seized four animals that were in obvious poor health—a pony, a pig, a goat and a severely underweight cow," according to law enforcement agent Carol McCarthy, who also reported that two dead goats were found buried in the mud. Other animals at the farm included an elephant, a camel, a pair of tigers and a pair of mountain lions, a female lion, assorted monkeys, several exotic birds, a donkey, and other domestic animals.

Subsequent publicity brought forward a number of other witnesses with complaints of neglect and alleged cruelty leading the League to make a second inspection visit on August 5, at which time thirty animals were taken into protective custody, including six primates, two mountain lions, and the camel, named "Becky," who was found tethered to a tree in the woods behind the farm, suffering from an eye injury. Also taken at that time were two goats, two ponies, ten young pigs, and a number of exotic birds, including peacocks, parrots and cockatoos.

*Photos on this page by Jon Hill and Michael Grecco Courtesy of Boston Herald*

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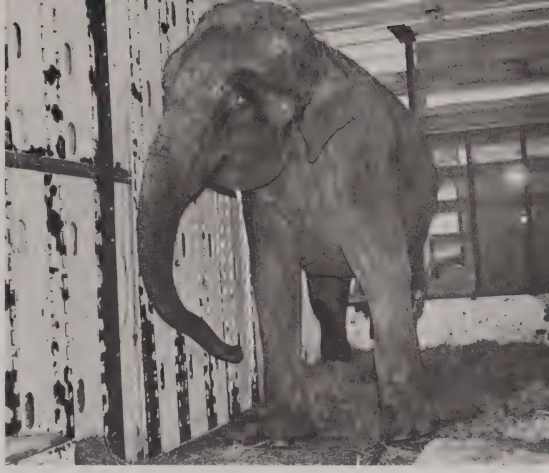


# ARL CUSTODY IN FARM RAID

"These animals were in poor health," according to Richard W. Bryant, executive assistant at the League. "Some of them had injuries that had never been cared for and were in immediate need of veterinary care." It was also discovered at that time that the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) had months earlier suspended Watson's license to keep and show exotic animals. The animals seized by the League were placed for care at various animal facilities in the state and the League filed charges against Watson for animal neglect and cruelty, but the bizarre tale was far from over.

In the early morning hours on October 8, someone broke into the Southwick Animal Farm in Mendon, Massachusetts, and removed the camel and six primates which were being held there. The Mendon Police Department entered the investigation and two weeks later the missing animals, along with a great number of Watson's other animals, including an Asian elephant named "Ruthie," were found on a dairy farm in Epping, New Hampshire, as a result of a report phoned in to the ARL.

N.H. state and local police, fish and game officials, and ARL agents recovered the stolen animals on Friday, October 24, but some of the other animals left in the care of N.H. officials disappeared later that weekend. Workers arriving early Sunday morning at a rubbish disposal company on Route 1 in Danvers, Mass., discovered an abandoned trailer in the parking lot with what appeared to be an elephant's trunk protruding from the side. Inside, they found the 8,000-pound elephant "Ruthie," along with 14 goats, a horse, ponies, four sheep, and two South American cavies. "It seemed like everyone was there but Noah," said Philip Caron, owner of the disposal company.

Brian Watson is currently facing cruelty charges in New Hampshire where he has also been charged with reckless conduct and possession of wild animals without a permit. As a result of the League's case, he is also charged with five counts of cruelty to animals in Salem Superior Court in Massachusetts, as well as a felony charge for breaking and entering in Mendon, Massachusetts.

Until these cases are concluded, the League has legal custody of Watson's animals, over 70 in all, with the exception of "Ruthie." The Asian elephant was being kept by the League at a zoo in New Bedford but the United States Fish and Wildlife Service took over responsibility for her care on October 31, because her transportation over state lines represented a federal violation of the Lacey Act which forbids the inter-state transport of endangered species.

As legal custodian of the animals, the League has been responsible for all of the costs of their care and upkeep, including transportation, boarding fees at various facilities about the state, food, veterinary care and legal costs, all of which have come to over $40,000 to date, and will continue to accrue until the case is resolved. "It is costing $60 a day to care for just the two tigers, the lioness and the jaguar," according to Richard Bryant.

"Because of the extraordinary nature of this case, and the magnitude of the ongoing responsibility for these animals that the League has undertaken, we are turning to you, our members and friends, for your help and support," says Arthur G. Slade, League president. "We are establishing a special fund for these animals and asking anyone who would like to become a personal part of this effort to contribute in whatever way he or she can. All gifts made to this fund will be earmarked directly for the care of these animals, used to provide them with food, shelter and medical care until such time as this sad situation can be resolved."

### THEY NEED YOUR HELP!

You can become a part of the League's effort to help these wild animals by using the attached envelope to send along whatever level gift you can make for their care. Thank you for anything you can do to help.

*Arthur G. Slade*

# Building on the Past

Saving things – the good things that is–as they were, for the enrichment of future generations, is a lifetime pursuit for Hancock, Mass. native Richard Babcock, a barn restoration expert who is using centuries-old methods to restore the barn at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham.

Using the old-style joining techniques learned from his grandfather, Babcock has been renovating New England barns for thirty years. The League's barn is pre-Revolutionary in style, built probably around the mid-1700's, he estimates, by English settlers who built in the original English fashion to which Babcock is adhering.

Moisture seepage, wood rot and their inevitable companion, the carpenter ant, had done considerable damage to the structure over the years, particularly on the north side where the sun seldom reaches. The renovation work began in October with the complete gutting of the old horse and cow stalls.

The heart of the project came next–hand-hewing and framing the interior support beams from logs trucked in weekly from forests in western Massachusetts. Framing is the process whereby the hand-hewn beams are prepared for

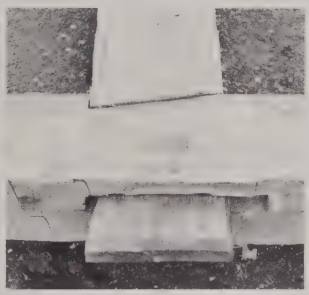
*Beams are hand-hewn by Richard Babcock and his assistant, Henry Suydan.*

## PETS IN THE PICTURE

"I hope you will publish this picture of my dog keeping cool during the dog-gone days of summer," writes Virginia Smith from Mannheim, W. Germany. "Mindy," who is 15 years old, was adopted in 1971 and "has been a loyal companion to me and resides with me now in Europe," her owner writes.

Mildred Weldon of Avon shares this photo of her dog "Flash," taken "just several days before her passing. She is missed dearly," Ms. Weldon writes. "A friend to the end, Flash, who passed away November 21, 1985."

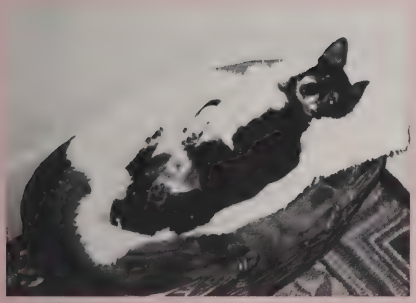
*Barn restoration expert Richard Babcock applies master craftsman's touch in renovation of barn interior (shown above).*



*Closeups above show old-style gunstock pattern beam and mortise-and-tenon (right) joining technique.*

*joining* to each other, by carving out *tenons* (end projections) and *mortises* (the receptacles into which the tenons will be inserted). "This is the way the original builders would have done it," Babcock explains. He is particulary proud of the "gunstock" pattern of the main side support beam which is, in fact, a tree turned upside down so that the strongest part flares out to support both the crossbeam and the outside walls.

The final steps in the project, which should be completed by the end of the year, include reboarding wall surfaces, rebuilding stalls and installing some new electrical and plumbing fixtures. When completed, the historic structure will combine modern efficiency with the beauty and craftsmanship of yesterday.



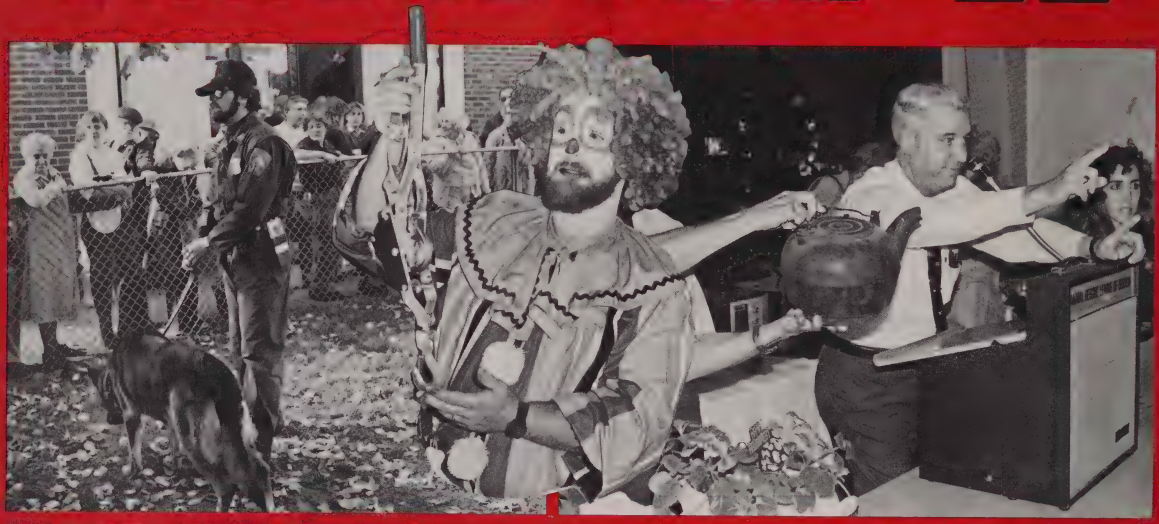
Mary Cochrane of Kennebunk, Maine sends a snapshot of "Charlie," adopted from the League in 1983 at the age of seven. "Despite his age, 'Charlie' has adapted beautifully to a totally new environment. As you can see, he enjoys relaxing in his bed in the corner of my bedroom," she writes. "We love him very much and will be taking him to Florida soon, along with his good friend 'Alice,' a Siamese cat, also adopted. All this shows that an older animal can learn a new way of life and become a very rewarding pet."

The League would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Janet Levinson of Somerville whose very generous donation to the League has made possible the purchase of hand-held radio units for our agents to use for communication during animal rescues and special investigations.

For other members or friends who would like to help make the holidays brighter by donating a specific item or contributing toward its purchase, the following items are currently needed:

- 35mm cameras (three) for use in our three branch shelters, in Brewster, Dedham and Salem. Cost: approximately $200 - 250 each.
- A video camera for humane education and law enforcement use. Cost: $1,000.

# ANNUAL FAIR '86



NEWSFRONT
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

## LEAGUE APPOINTS NEW SHELTER MANAGER

Alan W. Cunningham has been appointed manager of the League's Safford Memorial Animal Shelter in Dedham. A graduate of the University of Maine at Orono, he joined the League staff in January, 1986 as livestock education specialist and also served as director of the farm program at the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet.

Cunningham has a B.S. degree in animal and veterinary science and was formerly assistant director of the Natick Community Farm.

## SURVEY CITES LEADING DOG HEALTH PROBLEMS

According to a pet health survey conducted by the Morris Animal Foundation, cancer is now the leading cause of death among dogs, followed by kidney disease and other problems associated with old age. Over one thousand readers of the Foundation's newsletter participated in the survey. Though cancer led the causes of canine death, it was third on the list of health care concerns cited by pet owners, who named skin problems and heartworm disease as their major concerns, followed by cancer, obesity and nutrition problems.

## NEW TRAINING APARTMENT OPENS AT RED ACRE

Further welcome news from the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center is the announcement of the opening of a new training apartment where new recipients of hearing dogs will be able to spend twenty-four hours a day with their hearing dogs at the Center for one week before the on-site, hometown placement occurs. In the past, new recipients trained for two days with their dogs at the Center while staying in a nearby motel. The new training apartment was made possible by a major grant from an anonymous foundation.

## ANIMALS IN LITERATURE EXHIBIT AT BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Boston Public Library's Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts recently hosted an exhibit titled "Animals, Inspiration of Man." The exhibit demonstrated how animals have affected many important writers, from Biblical times to the present, and included important works ranging from the Geneva Bible of 1560 showing a passage from the Book of Job exalting the graces of a young colt, to the German Bible of 1705 with a woodcut of Adam surrounded by friendly beasts, to the modern Spanish poet Pablo Neruda and his illustrated *Bestiary* of 1965. Many rare manuscripts were on view, including a collection of manuscripts of the 13th and 14th century showing how animals, especially birds and serpents, were used in the art of manuscript illumination.

Some pieces of rare china depicting animals were also included in the exhibit, according to Laura V. Monti of the BPL's Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts, who described the special display at the Delta Society's recent meeting in Boston.

# Current Movies

The American Humane Association has established the following motion picture classification standards to provide a reliable and serviceable film guide for parents and others interested in assessing the impact of a given film.

**Acceptable:** American Humane was on location to monitor animal action and to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to endanger animals are simulated.

**Believed Acceptable:** The Association was not on location to monitor animal action, but after screening or script review, American Humane representatives concluded the film producer complied with Association standards and intentions.

**Questionable:** American Humane personnel not on the scene. Animal action and treatment is in doubt.

**Unacceptable:** Outright cruelty to animals during production.

**Acceptable:**

*Armed and Dangerous,* a Brian Grazer/James Keach/Harold Ramis /Frostback Production, distributed by Columbia Pictures.

*Lightning—The White Stallion,* a Cannon Group release.

*The Morning After,* Lorimar/ American Filmworks distributed by 20th Century Fox.

*Three Amigos,* a Victory Film distributed by Orion Pictures Corporation.

**Believed Acceptable:**

*Cherry 2000,* a Lion's Gate Studios Production, released by Orion Pictures Corporation.

*Crocodile Dundee,* a Rimfire Production for Paramount Picture release.

*Flight of the Navigator,* a PSO Presentation for Buena Vista Distribution.

*Link,* Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment, distributed by Cannon Films.

*Man Outside,* Stouffer Enterprises.

*Out of Bounds,* a Fries Entertainment Production for Columbia Pictures.

*Solar Babies,* Brooks Films production released by MGM Entertainment Co.

## THEATRE OF THE DEAF TO BENEFIT RED ACRE

Red Acre Farm is sponsoring a benefit performance of the National Theatre of the Deaf presenting Carson McCuller's "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter." It will be held Saturday, January 31, 1987 at Concord Academy in Concord, Mass. The play begins at 8:00 p.m. and will be preceded by a complimentary reception at 7:00 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center at (617) 897-8343 (Voice/ TTY) or by sending a check for $20 per person to Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center, P.O. Box 278, Stow, Mass. 01775.

## WSPA ACTIVE IN CHERNOBYL AFTERMATH

The disaster at the Russian nuclear plant at Chernobyl caused widespread effects on animals which are still being observed in Europe, including the finding of British sheep that have been contaminated with high levels of radioactivity. When the disaster occurred, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) offered their assistance to the Soviet Union to aid any animals affected by radiation.

Two weeks after the disaster, WSPA received reports that about 900 head of cattle, horses and sheep which were being transported from Poland, via Austria, to Italy, were not allowed past the Italian border when customs officials found them contaminated with up to 60 times the normal radiation level. The livestock had reportedly been kept for a week in railway cars with little or no food and water. WSPA, through its advisory director in Austria, called upon the assistance of a local Austrian animal welfare society, Kamtner Tierschutzverein Villach, which ensured that the animals were fed and watered and eventually returned safely to Poland.

*"As you know, Mrs. Smith, your late husband was quite an animal lover."*

The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is
**"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"**
that is was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

## Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of

_____ dollars.

**Animal Rescue League of Boston**
**10 Chandler Street**
**Boston, Massachusetts 02116**

# Christmas is a time for sharing.

This Christmas season, adopt a warm, loving puppy, kitten, or older pet to share your home and your love.

Our shelters are conveniently located:

**Boston** 10 Chandler Street 426-9170

**Dedham** 238 Pine Street 326-0729

**Salem** 378 Highland Avenue 744-7910

**E. Brewster** Route 6A 255-1030

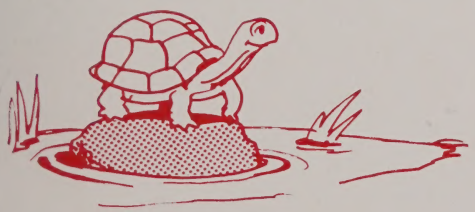
Call for information and shelter hours.

## Animal Rescue League of Boston

A Non-Profit Humane Society Helping Animals Since 1899.

# Moving?

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.



Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive **OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS** without interruption.

**Old Address:**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

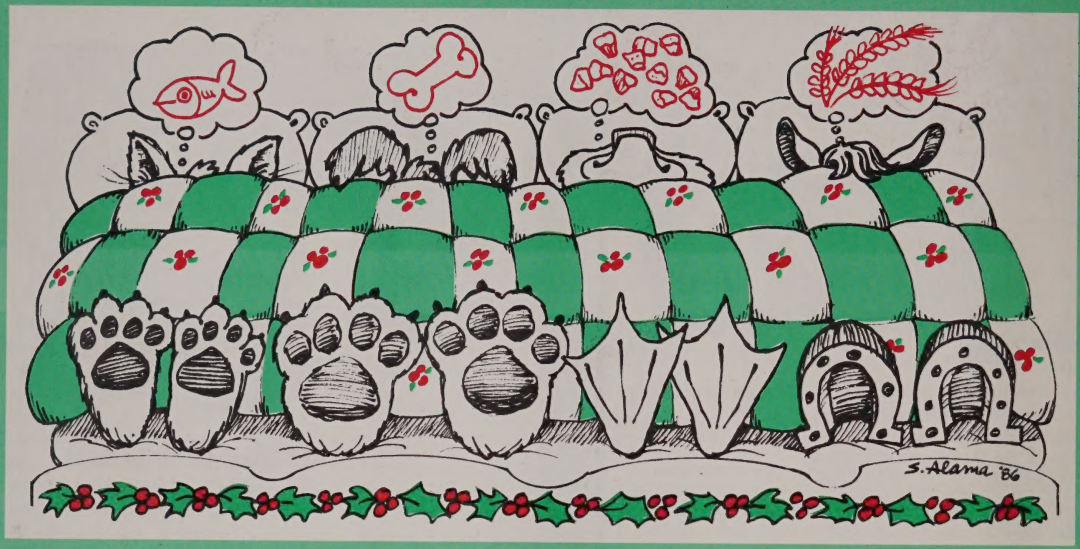
(please print or attach mailing label)

**New Address:**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____




*May all your Christmas dreams come true.*

Season's Greetings
from your friends at the
Animal Rescue League of Boston

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117